Scrapping of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

399. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to scrap some Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the net savings due to scrapping of these schemes; and

(d) the manner in which the saving is likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Planning Commission has recently undertaken an exercise regarding transfer/rationalization/review of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Few schemes have been identified for discontinuance which has been communicated to the Ministries/Department by Planning Commission.

Development of Infrastructure in Rural Areas

400. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the priorities fixed by the Planning Commission for the development of infrastructure in the rural areas of the country;

(b) whether the Commission hold its control over the programmes being run for this purpose;

(c) if so, the reasons for pathetic condition of water supply, electricity, education, healthcare and roads, particularly in the rural areas despite putting all our efforts;

(d) whether the Commission has marked certain laggard areas considered a failure as per the parameters of human development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Planning and development of rural infrastructure is mainly the responsibility of the States. The Central Government assists the States in their efforts by contributing a part of the resources through Central Assistance to State Plans and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Planning Commission does not control these